GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:148
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2009
FREIGHT CLASSIFICATION
Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/criteria laid down for freight classification under the goods transport system;

(b) whether the Railways have recently made further changes in the categorisation of different commodities for determining the applicable rates;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which Railways ensure transparency in the decision making process in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 148 BY SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 26.2.2009 REGARDING FREIGHT CLASSIFICATION.

(a) The norms/criteria laid down for freight classification under the goods transport system are cost of service and value of service, which inter-alia includes what the traffic can bear taking into account railway's competitiveness and elasticity of demand.

(b) & (c) There has been no change in categorisation of different commodities as given in Goods Tariff.However,the classification of cement, coal, iron-ore for domestic consumption, foodgrains, flours & pulses and chemical manures has been changed in last six months.

(d) Since change in freight classification have financial implications, these proposals cannot be disclosed during the decision making process. Decisions are taken as per powers delegated under the Railways Act, 1989 after approval by the competent authority.